AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-49: (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) A method of researching and analyzing information contained in a plurality of documents belonging to a first database, searchable on a plurality of search fields and having a plurality of search field values, the method comprising the steps of:

    a) developing a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user;

    b) developing a set of user-defined fields relating to said one or more interests, said set of user-defined fields being distinct from said set of search arguments;

    c) searching the first database using at least some of said set of search arguments so as to retrieve a plurality of retrieved documents from among the plurality of documents;

    d) reading each of said plurality of retrieved documents so as to extract from each of said plurality of retrieved documents a user-defined field value for at least one user-defined field of said set of user-defined fields so as to obtain a plurality of user-defined field values;

    e) entering said plurality of user-defined values extracted in step d) into a second database; and

    f) entering the ones of the plurality of search field values corresponding to said plurality of retrieved documents into said second database.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50, further comprising subsequent to step c) the step of filtering said plurality of retrieved documents based on at least some of said set of search arguments so as to obtain a refined set of documents, step d) being performed relative to said refined set of documents.

52. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50, further comprising the steps of forming a plurality of ~~HLA~~ high level of abstraction (HLA) clusters and assigning each of said plurality of retrieved documents to one of said plurality of HLA clusters.

2/22

53. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 52, wherein each of said plurality of HLA clusters has a corresponding cluster identifier and the method further comprises the step of entering into said second database for each of said plurality of retrieved documents one of said cluster identifiers.

54. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 52, wherein the step of forming a plurality of ~~HLA~~ high level of abstraction (HLA) clusters includes filling out an HLA framework form.

55. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 50, further comprising the step of associating, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a weight with each of at least some of said plurality of user-defined fields.

56. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim ~~54~~55, further comprising the step of entering said weights into said second database.

57. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 55, further comprising the step of tallying said weights for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.

58. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 50, wherein step a) includes the step of at least partially populating a first input form.

59. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 58, wherein the step of at least partially populating said first input form comprises populating said first input form with known documents already known to the user.

60. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 50, wherein step b) includes the step of at least partially populating a second input form.

61. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 60, wherein the step of at least partially populating said second input form includes populating said second input form with answers to questions relating to a business of the user.

3/22

62. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 61, further comprising the step of assigning weights to at least some of said answers.

63. (Previously Presented) A method of researching and analyzing information contained in a plurality of documents belonging to a first database, searchable on a plurality of search fields and having a corresponding plurality of search field values, the method comprising the steps of:

   a) receiving a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user;

   b) receiving a set of user-defined fields relating to said one or more interests, said set of user-defined fields being distinct from said set of search arguments;

   c) searching the first database using at least some of said set of search arguments so as to retrieve a plurality of retrieved documents from the plurality of documents;

   d) receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a user-defined field value for at least one user-defined field of said set of user-defined fields so as to receive a plurality of user-defined field values, said plurality of user-defined field values having been extracted from said plurality of retrieved documents;

   e) entering said plurality of user-defined values received in step d) into a second database; and

   f) entering the plurality of search field values into said second database.

64. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 63, further comprising subsequent to step c) the step of filtering said plurality of retrieved documents based on at least some of said set of search arguments so as to obtain a refined set of documents, step d) being performed relative to said refined set of documents.

65. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 63, further comprising the step of receiving ~~an HLA~~a high level of abstraction (HLA) cluster identifier for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.

66. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65, further comprising the step of entering each of said cluster identifiers into said second database.

4/22

67. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 63, further comprising the step of presenting ~~an HLA~~a high level of abstraction (HLA) framework form to a user.

68. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 63, further comprising the step of receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a weight for each of at least some of said plurality of user-defined fields.

69. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 68, further comprising the step of entering said weights into said second database.

70. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 68, further comprising the step of tallying said weights for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.

71. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 63, wherein step a) includes the step of presenting the user with a first input form for developing said set of search arguments.

72. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 63, wherein step b) includes the step of presenting the user with a second input form for developing said set of user-defined fields.

73. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of receiving via said second input form answers to a plurality of questions relating to a business of the user.

74. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of receiving via said second input form weights for at least some of said answers.

75. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium containing computer instructions for researching and analyzing information contained in a plurality of documents belonging to a first database, searchable on a plurality of search fields and having a corresponding plurality of search field values, the computer instructions comprising:

5/22

a) a first set of instructions for receiving a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user;

b) a second set of instructions for receiving a set of user-defined fields relating to said one or more interests, said set of user-defined fields being distinct from said set of search arguments;

c) a third set of instructions for searching the first database using at least some of said set of search arguments so as to retrieve a plurality of retrieved documents from the plurality of documents;

d) a fourth set of instructions for receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a user-defined field value for at least one user-defined field of said set of user-defined fields so as to receive a plurality of user-defined field values, said plurality of user-defined field values having been extracted from said plurality of retrieved documents;

e) a fifth set of instructions for entering said plurality of user-defined values received in step d) into a second database; and

f) a sixth set of instructions for entering the plurality of search field values into said second database.

76. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 75, further comprising in addition to the third set of instructions, a seventh set of instructions for filtering said plurality of retrieved documents based on at least some of said set of search arguments so as to obtain a refined set of documents.

77. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable medium according to claim 75, further comprising an eighth set of instructions receiving ~~an HLA~~ a high level of abstraction (HLA) cluster identifier for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.

78. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 77, further comprising a ninth set of instructions for entering each of said cluster identifiers into said second database.

79. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable medium according to claim 75, further comprising a tenth set of instructions for presenting ~~an HLA~~a high level of abstraction (HLA) framework form to a user.

80. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 75, further comprising an eleventh set of instructions for receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a weight for each of at least some of said plurality of user-defined fields.

81. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 80, further comprising a twelfth set of instructions for entering said weights into said second database.

82. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 80, further comprising a thirteenth set of instructions for tallying said weights for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.

83. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 75, wherein said first set of instructions includes instructions for presenting the user with a first input form for developing said set of search arguments.

84. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 75, wherein said second set of instructions includes instructions for presenting the user with a second input form for developing said set of user-defined fields.

85. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 84, further comprising a fourteenth set of instructions for receiving via said second input form answers to a plurality of questions relating to a business of the user.

86. **(Previously Presented)** A computer readable medium according to claim 85, further comprising a fifteenth set of instructions for receiving via said second input form weights for at least some of said answers.

7/22

87. **(Previously Presented)** A system for researching and analyzing information contained in a plurality of documents belonging to a first database, searchable on a plurality of search fields and having a corresponding plurality of search field values, the system comprising:

   a) a computer;

   b) a second database;

   c) a first set of instructions executable by said computer for receiving a set of search arguments relating to one or more interests of a user;

   d) a second set of instructions executable by said computer for receiving a set of user-defined fields relating to said one or more interests, said set of user-defined fields being distinct from said set of search arguments;

   e) a third set of instructions executable by said computer for searching the first database using at least some of said set of search arguments so as to retrieve a plurality of retrieved documents from the plurality of documents;

   f) a fourth set of instructions executable by said computer for receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a user-defined field value for at least one user-defined field of said set of user-defined fields so as to receive a plurality of user-defined field values, said plurality of user-defined field values having been extracted from said plurality of retrieved documents;

   g) a fifth set of instructions executable by said computer for entering said plurality of user-defined values received in step f) into said second database; and

   h) a sixth set of instructions executable by said computer for entering the plurality of search field values into said second database.

88. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 87, wherein said second database is contained in said computer.

89. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 87, further comprising in addition to the third set of instructions, a seventh set of instructions for filtering said plurality of

retrieved documents based on at least some of said set of search arguments so as to obtain a refined set of documents.

90. **(Currently Amended)** A system according to claim 87, further comprising an eighth set of instructions receiving ~~an HLA~~a high level of abstraction (HLA) cluster identifier for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.

91. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 90, further comprising a ninth set of instructions for entering each of said cluster identifiers into said second database.

92. **(Currently Amended)** A system according to claim 87, further comprising a tenth set of instructions for presenting ~~an HLA~~a high level of abstraction (HLA) framework form to a user.

93. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 87, further comprising an eleventh set of instructions for receiving, for each of said plurality of retrieved documents, a weight for each of at least some of said plurality of user-defined fields.

94. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 93, further comprising a twelfth set of instructions for entering said weights into said second database.

95. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 93, further comprising a thirteenth set of instructions for tallying said weights for each of said plurality of retrieved documents.

96. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 87, wherein said first set of instructions includes instructions for presenting the user with a first input form for developing said set of search arguments.

97. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 87, wherein said second set of instructions includes instructions for presenting the user with a second input form for developing said set of user-defined fields.

9/22

98. (New) A method of analyzing a group of patent documents, comprising the steps of:

    a) retrieving a plurality of patent documents from a first database, each of said plurality of patent documents disclosing at least one invention;

    b) reviewing each of said plurality of patent documents so as to determine for each of said plurality of patent documents a problem solved by said at least one invention corresponding to that one of said plurality of patent documents;

    c) preparing a problem solved statement for each said problem solved; and

    d) entering each said problem solved statement into a second database so that each said problem solved statement corresponds to a respective one of said plurality of patent documents.

99. (New) A method according to claim 98, wherein the patent documents in the group of patent documents are owned by at least one business competitor and the method further comprises the steps of retrieving each said problem solved statement from said second database and utilizing each said problem solved statement to perform at least one of: 1) a patent opportunity analysis and 2) a patent threat analysis.

100. (New) A method according to claim 98, further comprising the steps of associating a weight of importance with each said problem solved statement and entering each said weight of importance into said second database so that said weight of importance is correlated with a corresponding respective said problem solved statement.

101. (New) A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing a method of analyzing a group of patent documents each comprising front page data, said computer-executable instructions comprising:

    a) a first set of computer-executable instructions for presenting a user with a plurality of front page data input fields and labeling said plurality of front page data input fields with a plurality of first indicia that indicates that said plurality of front page data input fields are for receiving the front page data;

    b) a second set of computer-executable instructions for storing in a database the front page data input into said plurality of front page data input fields;

10/22

   c) a third set of computer-executable instructions for presenting the user with a problem solved statement input field and labeling said problem solved statement input field with indicia that indicates that said problem solved statement input field is for receiving a problem solved statement extracted from a patent document of the group of patent documents; and

   d) a fourth set of computer-executable instructions for storing in said database said problem solved statement.

102. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 101, wherein the patent documents in the group of patent documents are owned by at least one business competitor and said computer-executable instructions further comprise a fifth set of computer-executable instructions for retrieving each said problem solved statement from said database and for performing at least one of: 1) a patent opportunity analysis and 2) a patent threat analysis using said problem solved statement.

103. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 101, wherein the method includes associating a weight of importance with said problem solved statement and said computer-executable instructions comprise a sixth set of computer-executable instructions for presenting the user with a weight of importance input field and labeling said problem weight of importance input field with indicia that indicates that said weight of importance input field is for receiving the weight.

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